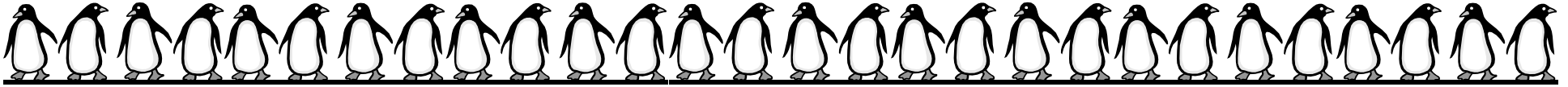


Burns Park Press



March 2007 - Calendar of Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----|
| Mark your Calendars: April 2-3: Hearing & Vision Re-test April 6-15: Spring Break | | | | 1 No School— midwinter break | 2 No School— midwinter break | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 4th Grade Camp Meeting, 6:30 pm | 7 BP Bucks Orders Due | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 No School (Elementary only) | 13 | 14 BP Bucks Orders Distributed | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Report Letters Sent Home | 20 Family Science Night, 6-8pm | 21 | 22 PTO Meeting, 7pm Jump Rope for Heart, 7pm BP Press Articles Due | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 1st & 2nd Grades Concert, 6:50 pm | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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Burns Park Mission Statement:
All of our children will become confident, secure, caring individuals of a diverse community who are lifelong learners and achieve personal success.

From our Principal

Dear Burns Park Families,

I hope all of you had a fabulous break from school with plenty of time to spend enjoying your family and friends. Many thanks to everyone that was able to visit Burns Park School for our Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) last month. Despite the weather, many parents and other adults came to visit for some or all of the day. A special thanks goes to the PTO for the refreshments they provided throughout the day. We hope that all our parents know that they are always welcome to visit our school.

March Is Reading Month

It is already March, and **March Is Reading Month!** Further information and a list of events are in this newsletter. Please post this month's reading activities in a prominent place so that you don't miss any of these wonderful opportunities. We hope that many of you will join us for our Read-at-thon at the end of the month. A special thanks goes to Ms. Erdstein, and the Friends of the Media Center for making this month so much fun.

March Report Letter

Report letters will be sent home on March 19th. These reports will include the results of the MEAP test in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. 4th and 5th graders will bring home Art and Music progress reports as well. PE reports will be included in the June report.

Space Available Transfers

This year, Burns Park will have a limited number of slots available for families who live outside the Burns Park attendance area. If you know someone who is interested in attending Burns Park next year that lives outside our boundary, please advise them to fill out a Space Available Transfer Form and return it to the Research Office at Balas I.

Sledding

We have been allowed to resume sledding at recess. Although we have always had the following rules in effect, I would like to reiterate them here. Student safety in every activity at school is very important to us.

- 1) No standing on sleds. When sledding, students must sit feet forward and face first—just like on the playground slide.
- 2) Only one person on a sled at a time.
- 3) Students must form lines and space themselves out at the top of the hill.
- 4) At the bottom of the hill, students need to walk away from the sledding area immediately so that sledders do not bump into each other—both for safety's sake and as a courtesy to their classmates.
- 5) Students must not sled down the side of Magic Mountain that faces the fence.
- 6) If there are not enough supervisors on the playground to carefully watch the sledding, sledding will not be allowed.

7) Only sleds are allowed—no snowboards. The school will provide the sleds used for sledding.

8) All students must follow these rules in order to keep their sledding privileges.

No School, March 12th — Report Writing

There is no school for students on Monday, March 12th. The staff will be writing student reports.

MEAP

We are very pleased with our continued achievement on the MEAP assessment, but we hasten to remind parents that the MEAP is just one snapshot of a student's progress. We encourage you to value the progress that your children show on their written reports as another important assessment of their progress.

It is important to remember that when you look at a fall assessment (as the MEAP tests are), you are looking at a reflection of progress that the students made in previous years. For example, the 3rd grade results assess what those students learned in Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

At each grade level, the MEAP Language Arts Assessment includes some multiple-choice questions and three items that require written responses. Students' writing is scored holistically using a writing rubric. The three writing samples assessed are a) one in which students respond to a specific prompt (Writing

from Knowledge and Experience), b) another in which they write a personal reflection (Student Writing Sample), and c) a response related to a Paired Reading Selection (in which students read two stories and assess their likenesses and differences). The first two writing samples make up the total Writing score. This last writing sample is included in the Reading assessment. Thus the Language Arts assessment score includes the writing assessment score, part of the reading assessment, and some additional multiple-choice questions.

Although our Writing scores continue to be above the state and district level, we continue to develop our curriculum so that all grade levels will reflect the same high level of achievement they are showing in Reading and Math.

We are encouraged to see that our 3rd grade students scored very significantly above the state average, and we think that this progress is a reflection of our new writing curriculum, Lucy Calkins' Writer's Workshop. The K–2 teachers are excited about this curriculum. We specifically like the language it uses to guide students' thinking. You may be familiar with some of the "kid friendly" terms (such as "small moments") used to encourage students to add details to their stories. Our young students are writing better and enjoying the process more, since we introduced this curriculum in the fall of 2005.

...from our principal

This year the 3—5 edition of Lucy Calkins' Writer's Workshop was published. Our 3rd grade teachers introduced it in the fall, and our 4th grade teachers are just now introducing it. Next year this curriculum will be implemented in the 5th grade.

In addition, this fall we implemented a computerized writing tool called MY Access with our 4th and 5th grade students. This technology tool helps students edit their writing, provides multiple suggestions for improvement, and scores their progress as often as they submit it. We're finding that our students enjoy working with this tool. The computer program seems to encourage students to make multiple revisions to improve their writing. As they revise, they learn. We will continue to work toward improved achievement in writing for all students.

The first chart to the right shows our achievement this year in comparison to the district and the state.

The next series of charts shows how our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students have achieved over a two-year time period. Although our 4th and 5th grade writing scores are not as high as we would like them to be, these students showed modest improvement from one year to the next. We are very pleased to see that the 6th grade students performed significantly better than last year, reflecting the instruction they received

during the 5th grade.

If you are interested in learning more about our MEAP results, you are welcome to attend our School Improvement Team meeting on Thursday, March 22nd at 5:00 in the Media Center.

Educationally yours,

Kathy Morhous
Principal

| Fall 2006 MEAP Comparison Data Between Burns Park, the District, and the State | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Grade | Lang. Arts | Reading | Writing | Math | Science |
| 3rd BP | 87.2 | 92.9 | 81.4 | 98.6 | |
| 3 rd District | 87.2 | 92.9 | 66.9 | 95.5 | |
| 3 rd State | 79.0 | 87.0 | 52.0 | 88.0 | |
| 4th BP | 96.8 | 98.4 | 65.1 | 98.5 | |
| 4 th District | 89.6 | 92.7 | 58.2 | 92.6 | |
| 4 th State | 78.0 | 85.0 | 45.0 | 85.0 | |
| 5th BP | 91.1 | 92.9 | 76.8 | 91.4 | 94.8 |
| 5 th District | 90.4 | 93.0 | 75.1 | 91.5 | 92.3 |
| 5 th State | 78.0 | 84.0 | 57.0 | 76.0 | 83.0 |

| MEAP Results comparing last year to this year | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------|------|----------------|
| Tested Group | Students Tested | Language Arts | Reading | Writing | Math | Social Studies |
| 4th Grade Students | | | | | | |
| 3 rd 2005 | 61 | 88.4 | 92.9 | 65.0 | 96.7 | |
| 4 th 2006 | 64 | 96.8 | 98.4 | 65.1 | 98.5 | |
| 5th Grade Students | | | | | | |
| 4 th 2005 | 60 | 89.8 | 94.9 | 72.9 | 96.6 | |
| 5 th 2006 | 58 | 91.1 | 92.9 | 76.8 | 91.4 | 94.8 |
| 6th Grade Students (Last year's 5th graders now attending AA middle schools) | | | | | | |
| 5 th 2005 | 62 | 91.1 | 92.9 | 76.8 | 91.4 | 91.8 |
| 6 th 2006 | 55 | 96.3 | 96.3 | 88.9 | 90.7 | 96.3 |

From our PTO Presidents

We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable break from school. At our February 22nd PTO meeting, we heard reports from the PTO Chairs of the BP Run (Jackie Dalton), and the Science Olympiad (Steve Brown). It sounds as though things are moving along well for the Burns Park Run, with many volunteers and sponsors already in place. The run will be held Sunday, May 5th. We decided at the meeting to have kid's artwork (designed by one of our own fifth graders!) on the adult and the kid's t-shirt this year, so look forward to a great looking t-shirt! If you are aware of any businesses that might be interested in sponsoring, be sure to get in touch with our co-chairs. And get ready to run!

Science Olympiad is just about ready to start, with flyers coming home in backpacks any day. Steve and his co-chair Margie Morris will be visiting classrooms the first week after the break to encourage kids to sign up. Volunteers are still need to work as coaches, create a banner, and for event day jobs. Contact Steve if you are interested sbrown137079MI@comcast.net.

We postponed the discussion and vote on playground improvements because we weren't as ready as we hoped to be. Here is an update to (hopefully) encourage you to come to the March 22 PTO meeting when we will vote. As a part of the playground project, we are extending the fence from the park entrance off Granger/ Lincoln to approximately the beginning of

the blacktop for safety reasons. Enhancements to the upper el playground under consideration include the following three options:

1. an enlarged basketball area with additional hoops, a community built climbing wall, and some overhead climbers/monkey bars
2. 13 ft. "Pegasus" structure (a stand alone climber similar to a giant spider web-County Farm Park has one), and an enlarged blacktop area/additional hoops
3. stand alone piece called the Infinity Web integrating a climbing "wall" and web

Please be sure to attend the March 22 PTO meeting when we will vote on the plans.

During that meeting, Jump Rope for Heart will take place in the gym, and therefore we will not have separate childcare. All children are welcome to attend JRFH while their parents are at the PTO meeting.

Congratulations to the cast and crews of the Burns Park Players Oliver! production. It was fabulous! We are so lucky to have such talented and generous people in our neighborhood, and we can't wait until next year!

Kelly Bumgarner, President
761-5439
skbum@sbcglobal.net

Helen Starman, President-Elect
994-8553

Burn\$ Park Buck\$ Goes Paperless

Burns Park Bucks raises between \$400 and \$1,000 per month for the PTO merely by having families shop the way they normally would. You support the PTO without spending an extra dime! How? You buy gift certificates and rechargeable cards for stores where you already shop.

Starting in March, paper forms for Burns Park Bucks will not be distributed to all families. If you would like to continue to receive a paper form, please let Lynda Norton know (761-1478 or lnorton@okno.com) and we'll be sure to get you one. Alternatively, you can use the convenient on-line order form where you can pay by credit card or check. Just go to www.burnsparkpto.org. The next orders are due on March 7, for distribution on March 14.

Lynda Norton

Fourth Grade Camp Meeting

4th Grade Families: There will be a 4th Grade Camp parent-student meeting on Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30 pm. Adrienne Sipkovsky will be here to tell us all about camp and to answer questions. She will have a slide show with some amazing pictures of Camp Ohiyesa. I hope everyone will be able to attend this important and informative meeting about 4th grade camp.

Janet Spiegel

Thank You Lunchtime Choices Volunteers!

Thanks SO much to all of the parents who volunteered during January and February for our Lunchtime Choices program! Without your support, our children would not have been able to participate in all of the fun activities. The time and energy you gave over the six week period is greatly appreciated by all of the students...and me!

Elizabeth DeRose, Lunchtime Choices, Chairperson

From the Media Center: Reading tips for March

I wanted to share a couple of great resources for helping your child become a better reader and enjoy reading even more.

The first is a collection of ebooks for kids and is available through the Ann Arbor District Library. All you need is a username and password. Anyone who has an AADL card, can create this if you don't already have one. The AADL website describes Tumblebooks as "a collection of TumbleBooks (animated, talking picture books) TumblePuzzles. TumbleBooks are created from existing picture books which we have licensed from children's book publishers." This is very cool! It's easy to get to, too.

1. Just go to www.aadl.org
2. Click on Services
3. Click on Research Databases (under the Answers column)
4. Click on Kids & Teens (or just scroll down)
5. Click on Tumblebooks
6. Enter your library username and password

The second resource is for parents and students looking for more titles at the student's "Just Right" reading level. There is a leveled books database on the Web that you can visit. You'll want to search for "guided reading levels" A-Z. You can just look for titles or narrow your search by keyword. There are thousands of titles to find.

The website address is http://books.atozteacherstuff.com/leveled-books/index.php?p=getdb&db_id=1

Additionally, here are some tips when helping your child read. Encourage him/her to use these **strategies**:

- ◆ Look at the picture clues
- ◆ Think about the story
- ◆ Think about the first sound, get your mouth ready and make the sound
- ◆ Go back to the beginning of the sentence and reread
- ◆ Always be thinking:
 - ◆ Does it make sense?
 - ◆ Does it have meaning?
 - ◆ Does it sound right?
 - ◆ Do we talk that way?
 - ◆ Does it look right?
 - ◆ Do the letter sounds match?
- ◆ Take the hard word and "chunk" it into smaller parts.
 - ◆ Example: thin th-in
 - ◆ Example: Today to-day
 - ◆ Example: Call c-all

Happy Reading Month, Rachel Erdstein

Jump Rope for Heart Returns

It's that time of year again! During PE classes the week of March 19 all of our Burns Park students will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart. They will be learning and doing fun things with the individual ropes, long ropes (with turners), partner jumping, and, for those daring souls, Double Dutch.

Whenever possible, the older students will join the younger ones in class. The older students are great role models and assistants. Sometimes a young student cannot jump while turning his/her own rope but can jump with a "big buddy" who is turning for both of them. The older students are great long rope turners and help give the younger students the incentive they need to keep trying.

Please come join us! If it fits into your daytime schedule, you are more than welcome to come and jump with us or assist in turning, counting, and/or timing. (Especially in kindergarten and first grade we can use turners for the long ropes and timers.)

We also are planning a voluntary evening jump the night of the PTO meeting Thursday, March 22. We will be jumping from 6:30-8:30 in the auditorium and gym. Even if you don't jump, it is worth the time to see our students jumping rope while jumping on a pogo stick or a pogo ball! Come for the whole time or, if you will be attending the PTO meeting, come for a portion of the time. There will be no child care that night for PTO, but your

child(ren) will be welcome to jump rope with us.

We participate in JRFH not only to raise donations for the American Heart Association, but, also, to heighten our students' awareness of keeping their hearts healthy for a lifetime. Jumping rope is one of the quickest, easiest, and fun ones to keep their hearts healthy.

Information about the fundraiser itself will come separately. Even though all students will be participating in JRFH in their PE classes, no one is required to solicit donations. The American Heart Association provides gifts for those students who raise various amounts of donations, and, of course, one of those gifts is a jump rope.

In 2005 (our first year with JRFH) we raised \$1,800. Last year we increased that amount to \$8,000 dollars, with one student alone raising over \$1,000 in donations. This year I "stuck my neck out" and said that we would try to become one of the elite Michigan schools by raising a minimum of \$20,000. (I realize that this is a huge goal especially in light of the Pfizer announcement.)

Even if we don't become a Michigan elite school, we have a lot to be proud of with our students. Their interest and enthusiasm in rope jumping is outstanding!

Judy Stevenson

Student Art Exhibitions

Botanical Gardens: March marks the beginning of our heavier exhibit schedule. Besides student artwork gracing our hallways, we have had 2nd grade landscape paintings hanging at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Geddes Road since November. Come view the artwork as well as the beautiful flora exhibits of the Gardens. What a great activity during our frigid winter days.

Balas Building: At the Superintendent's wing of the Balas Administration Building on State Street, the community can view the Aboriginal artworks of the following 5th graders:

Scott Lieberman, Katie Taub, Shira Hammerslough, Anna Hutton, Marc Hester, Brandon Cutler, Kevin Turnbull, Sacha Moravy-Penchansky, Sylvie Epstein, Owen Veaser, and MacKenzie Sapp.

In addition, the ceramic canopic jars made by **Mrs. Kim's** and **Ms. Everett's 3rd graders** are displayed in the case in the lobby at Balas. Both sets of artworks will be featured until the end of March.

YAM in Downtown Ann Arbor: March is YOUTH ART MONTH. Ann Arbor Schools celebrates the talents of student-artists from all over the city by

featuring an explosion of artwork at participating storefronts in downtown Ann Arbor. Burns Park has a wonderful sponsor in the Ann Arbor Art Center on Liberty Street. This year the following artists have their vejigante masks displayed there:

Mrs. Crankshaw's room: Oceana Bailey, Holland Wesley, Tessana Flanders, Will Brinkerhoff, Sara Souweidane, Court Middleton, Adrian Huntley, Sophie Jones, Sophia Matossian and Alison Schulte.

Ms. Walter's room: Charlotte Borgers, Sujeong Cho, Leslie Marquez-Escobar, Mitchell Sapp, Carlos Jimenez Marquez, Kiersten Hoff, Anne Noffke, Alex Janowicz, Jason Figueroa and Rachel Felkey.

There will be a reception at Palio's Restaurant with the mayor of Ann Arbor and the superintendent of schools on Sunday, March at 1:15 and again at 2:15. All artists and their families are invited to view the artwork in downtown Ann Arbor and receive recognition and cookies! I hope to see you there.

McCauley Health Center Exhibit: We have Michigan Wildlife Drawings by 4th graders at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

until the end of March. Those artists are:

Jason Chen, Isabelle Matossian, Lucy Fuller, Claire Meingast, Hyun Ji Kim, Casey Jong, Mildred Marquez Escobar, Santiago de la Cerda-Harlow, Rodrigo Contreras, Maya Ben-Shahar, Nathan Ojo, Obiageri Ugwuegbu, Avital Smotrich-Barr.

Library Show coming soon!

Our final exhibit information of the year is coming in April: the Ann Arbor District Library Elementary Art Show. This is the granddaddy exhibit of them all. Watch for details!

The library at Burns Park has showcased the clay houses of 5th graders since January. (Thank you Mrs. Erdstein!) If you haven't already picked up your child's creation, please do so as soon as possible. Since these wonderful works of art are fragile, a parent must assist in transporting them home. If this is impossible for you, please contact me.

Kindergarten ceramic suns are in the showcases on the second floor.

Arte Latino: As the school celebrates the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries, we are also exploring and creating artwork from those parts of the world. Here is a list by grade level and class:

Kindergarten: Mexican clay suns

1st grade: Guatemalan weavings

2nd grade: Arpilleras from South America and Vejigante masks from Puerto Rico

3rd grade: Molas from Panama

4th grade: Amate Bark Paintings from Mexico

5th grade: TBA

Dworkin/Kreger classes: Oaxacan wood sculptures from Mexico as well as the study of Mayan and Aztec cultures.

By the end of the year, artists of the month will have included Frieda Kahlo, Diego Rivera, Salvadore Dali and Pablo Picasso.

Kate Higgins

Sleep Well, Do Well

Sleep is a natural part of everybody's life, but many people do not realize how important sleep is. Sleep, like diet and exercise, is important for our minds and bodies to be able to function normally and most effectively. Inadequate sleep has also recently been linked to weight gain in both children and adults.

During sleep, the brain sorts and stores memories and the body recovers from the wear and tear of the day, helping us stay strong and healthy. Children who do not get adequate rest regularly are at high risk for problems at school. These problems can include:

- ◆ Not being able to concentrate
- ◆ Decreased learning
- ◆ Behavioral problems.

According to the U.S. Public Health Service, for children to be able to do their best in school or at play, they should get at least 9 hours of sleep every night. Most adults need about 8 hours of sleep each night to function at their best.

Here are some things that you can do to ensure that your child gets enough sleep:

- ◆ Set a regular bedtime each night and stick to it

- ◆ Establish a regular bedtime routine to help your child settle down that that she can fall asleep easily
- ◆ Avoid feeding children big meals close to bedtime
- ◆ Avoid giving children anything with caffeine, especially 6 hours before bedtime
- ◆ Keep the child's bedroom at a comfortable temperature
- ◆ Keep the noise level low
- ◆ Keep the bedroom as dark as possible, if necessary, use a nightlight

Not getting enough time to sleep is one cause of problem sleepiness. Sleep disorders can also cause problem sleepiness. Both children and adults can suffer from sleep disorders. Parents should talk with their child's doctor if their child exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- ◆ Snoring nightly
- ◆ Coughing frequently during the night
- ◆ Breathing pauses during sleep
- ◆ Frequent awakenings during the night
- ◆ Difficulty staying awake during the day

Debita K. Graham, RN
School Nurse

Musical Performances

Dear Burns Park School Community,
I'd like to remind you of the upcoming concerts and ask that you get the dates on your home calendars:

Tuesday, March 27: **1st grade** singing "Barnyard Songs" at 6:50 p.m. and **2nd grade** singing "Seussical" and Dr. Seuss songs at 7:30.

Wednesday, May 2: **3rd grade** singing songs from Mexico at 7 p.m. and **4th grade** singing Beatles tunes and playing their recorders beginning at 7:40

Tuesday, May 15: 5th grade original compositions

Students should arrive no more than 10 minutes prior to their show and line up by the music room while their parents get seated in the auditorium.

5th grade parents, please be sure you clear the evening of May 15th from any other commitments, as it is very important that every group member be present to play the composition that group has composed. Thanks.

See you in the auditorium!

Cynthia Page-Bogen

Family Science Night

Please mark your calendars now for our annual Family Science Night to be held **Tuesday March 20 from 6:00-8:00** at Burns Park School. With assistance from the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum staff, we've arranged for multiple stations throughout the school where children may experiment with and learn about various Math and Science concepts.

THIS EVENT IS FREE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULTS.

We are still in need of volunteer booth attendants, please contact JoLeen Felkey at jafelkey@hotmail.com or Pam Ibrahim at pjkibrahim2@hotmail.com if you would like to contribute a couple of hours of your time to assist students and families during the fun. We hope to see all of you at this wonderful and enriching community event.

Boxtops Needed!!!!!!

Dear Burns Park Families,

We would very much like you to donate boxtops. Boxtops are small cardboard squares on top of some cereal boxes and other food items. These are worth 10 cents each. They support the school library so we can buy more books. You can find the orange drop box in our school library, behind the check-in desk. We would appreciate it very much if you would donate 10 boxtops per family if possible.

Thank you!!!

Sincerely,

Naomi W, Hannah B, Shira H, and Sophie M

Effect of “Everyday Mathematics” Curriculum on Student Math Proficiency Rates Among Michigan Public School Districts

A research study conducted by Andy Thomas, a Burns Park parent, investigated how the use of “Everyday Mathematics” (EDM) affects student proficiency in math. Data was extracted for the 75 largest school districts in Michigan (excluding Detroit), using the www.schoolsmatter.com database. The following conclusions were reached:

- ◆ Districts that utilize EDM have a higher math proficiency rate than districts that use other math curricula.
- ◆ The higher proficiency rates associated with use of EDM is present among economically disadvantaged children and racial minorities.
- ◆ The higher proficiency rates associated with EDM are strongest for the least disadvantaged districts (in terms of number of economically disadvantaged children, level of parental education and percent of single-parent households in district).
- ◆ The difference in proficiency rates between districts that use EDM and those that do not decreases for more disadvantaged districts.
- ◆ The “achievement gap” between white and African-American students is smaller for districts using EDM than for districts that use other math programs.
- ◆ No evidence was found to suggest that EDM systematically disadvantages any socio-economic group.

While this study is unlikely to end the controversy surrounding EDM, opponents of EDM will be hard pressed to find anything in this data to support their criticism. It should be kept in mind that this study considered grouped data only. It did not address the question of how individual students react to EDM. Parents may still be the best judges of how well EDM meets their children’s needs. Still, when taken as a whole, the results of this study represent a solid endorsement of EDM as a math curriculum for elementary students.

A summary of the data follows.

Editor’s Note:

The full text of this article is available at www.burnsparkpto.org.

| STUDENT MATH PROFICIENCY | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Category | District Using EDM | Districts Not Using EDM |
| All Students | 70.0% | 63.8% |
| Male Students* | 71.9% | 64.3% |
| Female Students* | 71.7% | 63.7% |
| White Students | 76.5% | 70.0% |
| African-American Students | 43.0% | 36.2% |
| Economically Disadvantaged Students | 49.3% | 46.9% |
| Districts | 30 | 45 |

*The number of male and female students per district was not available; therefore, these statistics represent the average of male/female student proficiencies for all districts. The average was not adjusted for differences in district size, causing a slight distortion. This is the reason the averages for both male and female students are higher than the average for “all students” (which does reflect differences in district size).

| MATH PROFICIENCY BY PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED | | |
|--|---------|----------------|
| District Ranking | Use EDM | Do Not Use EDM |
| Least Disadvantaged Third | 83.9% | 75.8% |
| Middle Third | 72.0% | 66.1% |
| Most Disadvantaged Third | 54.9% | 52.7% |

Effect of "Everyday Mathematics" Curriculum - cont'd

| MATH PROFICIENCY BY PERCENT OF STUDENTS LIVING IN SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS | | |
|---|---------|----------------|
| District Ranking | Use EDM | Do Not Use EDM |
| Least Single Parent Households | 79.0% | 75.3% |
| Middle Third | 75.4% | 67.4% |
| Most Single Parent Households | 56.5% | 52.7% |

| PERCENT DIFFERENCE IN MATH PROFICIENCY BETWEEN WHITE AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Category | Districts Using EDM | Districts Not Using EDM |
| All Districts | 31.4% | 33.3% |
| Percent Economically Disadvantaged | | |
| Least Disadvantaged | 31.9% | 47.7% |
| Middle Third | 30.8% | 35.7% |
| Most Disadvantaged | 26.1% | 26.6% |
| Percent Single Parent Households | | |
| Fewest Sing Parents | 35.5% | 40.15% |
| Middle Third | 33.4% | 44.3% |
| Most Single Parents | 22.7% | 23.0% |
| Percent Households with Parent Holding Bachelor's Degree | | |
| Highest Education | 37.9% | 40.6% |
| Middle Third | 28.1% | 36.5% |
| Least Education | 21.7% | 31.2% |
| Percent of District Belonging to Non-Asian Minorities | | |
| Fewest Minorities | 42.0% | 49.9% |
| Middle Third | 29.2% | 29.1% |
| Most Minorities | 24.1% | 25.0% |

| MATH PROFICIENCY BY PERCENT OF STUDENTS ONE+ PARENT HOLDS BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER | | |
|--|---------|----------------|
| District Ranking | Use EDM | Do Not Use EDM |
| Highest Level Parent Education | 81.7% | 66.5% |
| Middle Third | 66.5% | 67.5% |
| Lowest Level Parent Education | 57.6% | 55.4% |

| MATH PROFICIENCY BY PERCENT OF NON-ASIAN MINORITY STUDENTS IN DISTRICT | | |
|---|---------|----------------|
| District Ranking | Use EDM | Do Not Use EDM |
| Fewest Minority Students | 80.3% | 73.3% |
| Middle Third | 76.4% | 65.2% |
| Most Minority Students | 59.5% | 52.9% |

Thanks a Million

Thanks this month go out to the **Hospitality Committee** for helping with the delicious refreshments for NAAPID Day. We hope that you were able to join your child(ren) for a part of the day! Thanks also to those who stepped up and provided yummy refreshments for Kindergarten Round-Up and the kindergarten visit day. You made it an enjoyable time for our incoming kindergarten families...we appreciate it!

All the day late Valentines Day parties were a big hit with the kids, thanks to all the help from parents and teachers. We can't do these fun things without parent and teacher support, and the kids really enjoy it!

Our **Playground Committee**, who spent time this month researching, discussing, and formulating for review in Community Circles and at the PTO meeting. Thanks to you, we are one step closer to some great new features on the upper el playground later this year!

Use your patronage to help the Burns Park Players thank **Morgan and York** for acting as ticket box office. Morgan and York is located at 1928 Packard, and they have all sorts of wonderful things for parties or everyday. Stop in and see them!

Thanks to all of you who have been reading the Burns Park Press on line - we have reduced our copies from over 400 to just 48! This saves us paper and copying resources, and considerable time, so THANK YOU!

To all the lunchtime choices volunteers who made these fun activities possible for our kids...thanks a lot!

Kelly Bumgarner & Helen Starman

Burns Park Press Advertising

Display Ads

We welcome ads for companies and services of interest to our Burns Park community. The BP Press ad size is a nominal 2.5 x 4.25 vertical or horizontal, roughly 1/8 of a page for \$35/ issue or 3 months for \$100. The ads may be enlarged to fit the available space, at no extra charge.

Classifieds

Classifieds are meant to be used by the families of the Burns Park area to sell/buy personal items and/or services. Classifieds will be included on a first come, first served basis as space permits. Rates are \$.20/word.

Electronic Submission, please!

Submit your ad to Anne Gilbert, BP Press Editor (agilbert@surovell.com).

Payment

Please place your check (made out to Burns Park PTO) in an envelope labeled "BP Press Ads, attn: Treasurer" in the PTO box in the school office. (They may also be mailed to the school at 1414 Wells, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.) Both the electronic ad copy and payment must be received by the published deadline for the issue in which the ad is placed.

Questions?

Contact Anne at 657-7121.

Burns Park Press Submissions

This newsletter is published monthly by the Burns Park PTO. Contributions from teachers, staff, parents, and students are welcomed. Articles can be sent via email (preferred) or placed in the BP Press box in the office.

Articles for the April 2007 issue are due no later than Thursday, March 22. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

Anne Gilbert

Ann Arbor Public Schools Non-Discrimination Policy

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, height, weight, marital status, or disability. The Ann Arbor Public School District will provide reasonable aids and accommodations to individuals who desire information regarding the education of District students.

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